



[SIDEBAR TITLE]

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2017

Australian Centre for Christianity and
Culture, Charles Sturt University,
Canberra
Northmead Creative and Performing
Arts High School
Northmead Uniting Church

Euan Macleod
Station 6: Veronica Wipes Jesus Face

Introduction

The pattern of the Stations of the Cross goes back to a discipline initiated by St Francis in the early 13th century. That pattern offers a number of stopping places or stations to reflect on the journey of Jesus from his being sentenced to death to his crucifixion and resurrection. The 'pattern' provides a way of reflecting on our individual lives from that moment when we recognise that we are mortal through to and beyond our death. No easy answers are provided... to participate in the reflective journey is a discipline that helps us to live an intentional life.

Each year we invite a number of artists to participate in the project; they are randomly allocated a particular station, offered a pastorally informed commentary as a brief for their work, (the particular brief for each artist is placed alongside the image in the catalogue,) and then the artist is given the freedom to use their artistic discipline to address the questions in ways appropriate for them.

The exhibited works are not so much about illustration of the journey, as an engagement of the emotions and issues raised by the journey in contemporary living.

For me as curator, each year there is an excitement as the completed works are assembled and fresh ways of viewing old questions come to light. And it continually intrigues me how artists working separately offer works that speak to each other and create a very special environment for engagement and reflection. We thank each of the artist for the gift their contribution is to this exhibition.

The cooperation between the Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School and the Northmead Uniting Church is an important part of this exhibition. Bringing the works of leading Australian artists into the school enhances the educational possibilities for students through both the technical quality of the artist's works, and, the willingness of the artists to wrestle significant existential questions with integrity.

This year that cooperation includes the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra, where the works are also being shown. In this setting we hope the exhibition offers the stimulus for a significant conversation around the important questions shaped by lived experience

How to look.... The best way is to begin at station number 1 and follow the sequence to station 16. Don't try too hard to understand or know. There isn't a right and a wrong way to look. Enjoy looking and being in the presence of the work. Be aware of the physical sensations you experience as you look. Name what you see and what you feel, what questions you have, what you think, and any connections you make with life. Choose a couple of stations to go back and spend more time with. Share your thoughts with a friend.

It is a very special exhibition! Enjoy!

Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM (co-curator)

1. Jesus is Condemned to Die.

The brief given the artist: Each of us learns at some point in our lives of our own mortality, that we are going to die. The circumstances and time when we learn that in our deeper being varies greatly.

Artist: Gregory O'Brien
FIRST STATION--ANIWANIWA
acrylic on canvas, 1220x890mm



2. Jesus Carries His Cross.

The brief given the artist: Learning of our own mortality, is in many senses the cross that we carry through our lives from the moment we become conscious of our mortality.

Artist: Saif Almurayati
“It's a heavy cross”
150cm × 120cm

Statement : “it is a heavy cross to bear for all of us each time an atrocity is committed. Surely, 2000 years after the first three nails were struck there isn’t space for a single nail more.”



3. Jesus Falls the First Time.

The brief given the artist: We often 'stumble' or fall under the weight of the knowledge that we will one day die. The more imminent that death seems the harder the fall.

John Pratt

‘The fall.’

Woodcut 92 x 61 cm

4. Jesus Meets His Mother.

The brief given the artist: How differently we relate to the person who gave us birth when we realize that she and we are mortal.

Artist: Ella Whateley
“...touching”

Medium: Ink, gold and interference pigments on paper Year made: 2016
Dimensions: 57.5cm x 78.5cm



5. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

The brief given the artist: We can't carry the knowledge of our mortality alone. We need others who will help us carry the burden.

Artist: Clare Peters

Glass, Biblical text (Psalm 91), and tree stump.



6. Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face.

The brief given the artist: On the journey there are often intimate others who help us by attending to our intimate needs

Artist: Euan Macleod\

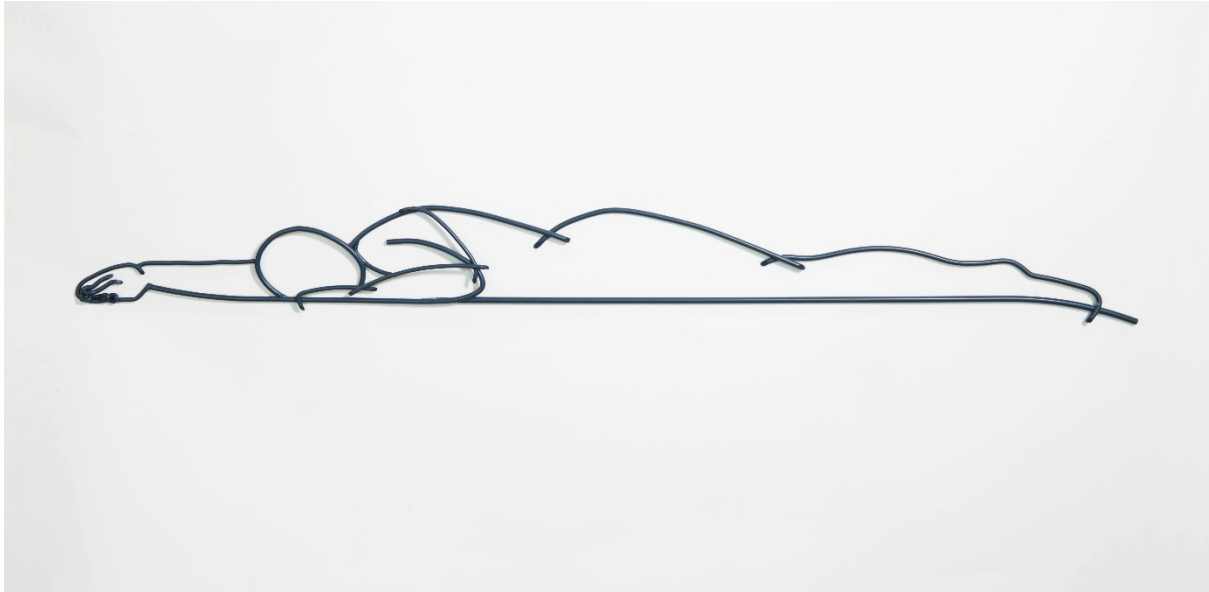
Oil and acrylic on canvas



7. Jesus Falls the Second Time.

The brief given the artist: Our mortality continues to be a heavy burden to carry and we fall many times under its weight.

Artist: Paul Hopmeier
Stainless steel and paint



8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

The brief given the artist: This is the central station in the sense that it is number 8 of 15; it is also central in that it suggests a world turned upside down. Luke 23:26-31 is the biblical story. We weep for the difficult things we see happening in our world and their challenge to our personal comfort and these hard words reflect how difficult the mortal journey might be for us.

Artist: Chris Wyatt
mixed media on board 102cmx 244 cm
Daughters of Jerusalem



9. Jesus Falls the Third Time.

The brief given the artist: Again, our knowledge of our mortality is a heavy burden and we stumble, fall under its weight. The falls in life become cumulative.

Artist: Julie Dowling
'Waranguwa (Falling)'
70 height x 90cm width]
Acrylic, red ochre and plastic on canvas



10. Jesus is Stripped.

The brief given the artist: I have often read this as Jesus is stripped bare. As I watched my father and mother in law among many I have known, become fragile and ill in their later years, I was very aware of how our mortality strips us bare , particularly when we are close to death.

1. Artist: Reg Mombassa

Station of the Cross 10: Australian Jesus is stripped bare.

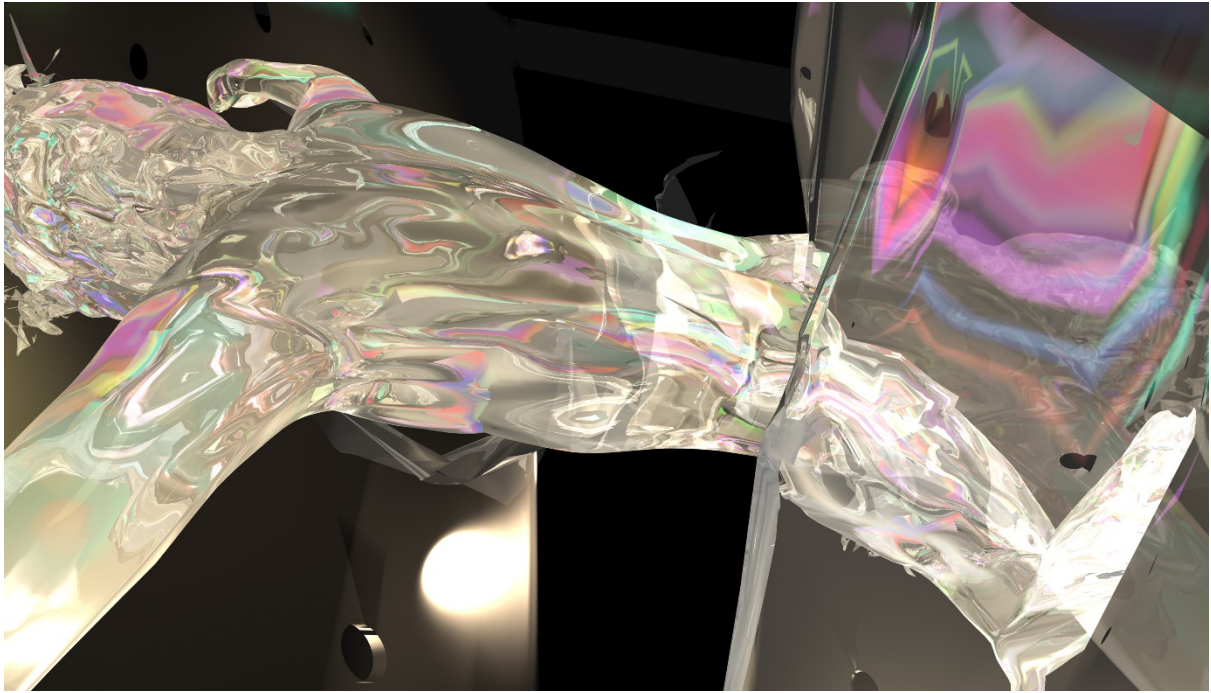


11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross.

The brief given the artist: The process of dying is not easy. There is often a sense of being nailed to the cross

Artist: Jennifer Little

Digital animation, acrylic and enamel paint.



12. Jesus Dies on the Cross.

The brief given the artist: We die, as Jesus died. What is death, what is it when 'we are' no more?

Artist: Di Ingram

"Jesus Finally Dies"

Acrylic and mixed media on canvas 102cm x 152cm



13. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross.

The brief given the artist: I have been taken with the power of the pieta for a very long time. Sometimes in the Christian and Western community we give so much emphasis to the death on the cross that we forget the people at the foot of the cross who hold that battered and beaten and now, dead, Jesus. Can there be any more painful thing in life than for the mother who gave birth, to hold her tortured and murdered son in his death?

Jesus is taken down from the cross

Artist: Catherine O'Donnell

'Descent' (named after Van der Weyden 1435 painting 'The descent from the cross', which I saw at the Prado)

Charcoal on paper



14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

The brief given the artist: There is something here of the dignity of the community that lays the bodies of the ones who die in their resting places. They are forced to reflect on all the questions raised by mortality and finitude and often in the process draw on religious rituals to help find the meaning in the death.

Artist: Emmanuel Garibay

"14th station" oil on canvas 91.5cm x 122cm



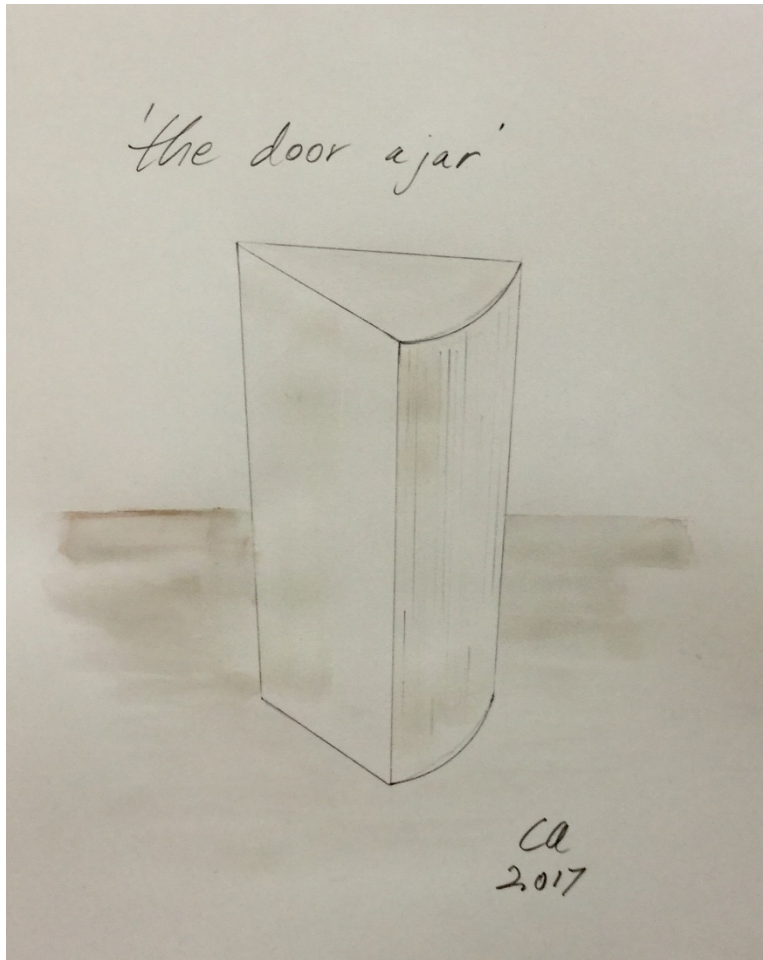
15. Jesus is raised to life.

The brief given the artist: This station is not included as one of the traditional stations, though in some situations it has been. It raises the question of how we find hope in the face of our mortality and finitude.

Artist: Chris Auckett

"the door ajar"

Preliminary drawing



Station Number 16 "Jesus comes to Warmun today,"

The brief given the artist: Jesus comes to Warmun today reflects the idea of Jesus appearance on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-25.) This story addresses the question of how we live after people who are special to us, have died. And, asks about the presence of the divine mystery in the contemporary world.

Artist: Catherine Kapikian
"Fixated On Fabricating".
Tapestry 119.5cm x 104cm



Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School,

Campbell Street Northmead 2152

Phone: 02 9630 3793

Principal: Narelle Vazquez

Northmead Uniting Church.

5-7 Hammers Rd, Northmead

Phone: (02) 8839 5814

Minister: The Rev'd Niall Reid



15 Blackall Street, Barton ACT 2600

Executive Director: Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard

Organising Committee chaired by Rob Eagleson

**Curators: Douglas Purnell (dougurnell@optusnet.com.au) and
Christopher Auckett (christopherauckett@yahoo.com.au)**

Narelle Vazquez, Principal Northmead CAPAHS:

The Stations of the Cross is a wonderful exhibition that has many positive influences on our school community. Through the work of Doug Purnell and our outstanding Visual Arts teacher, Christopher Auckett, this exhibition brings Art alive for our students. It adds to the creative arts focus of the school and creates an environment where students can immerse themselves in Art and have the opportunity to see the works of some of Australia's leading artists. The exhibition brings the real world of Art into the daily life of students and inspires them in their quest for the development of their skills. The exhibition connects with the students love of art and inspires them to pursue Art in their tertiary studies. Eighteen students are currently studying Fine Art or Visual Design since the exhibition's inception. One could say it has been a life changing experience for them. This has been a fabulous experience for our students and school to work in partnership with the Northmead Uniting Church strengthening our partnership in the wider community in promoting Art.

Niall Reid, Minister Northmead UCA

Northmead Uniting Church in co-sponsoring the Stations of the Cross with Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School and the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra, recognises and values the multifaceted nature of an exhibition that:

- presents the biblical and customary Christian accounts of Easter from a fresh and contemporary perspective through the medium of art;
- engages students, artists and ordinary people with a foundational story of Western Culture that infuses art, literature, law, ethics and so much of everyday life and thinking;
- gives people of faith and those with none a different sort of space or context to reflect on, re-envision and possibly even assimilate the Christ story with their own story.

Stephen Pickard, Executive Director ACCC

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture is delighted to be the Canberra host for the Stations of the Cross Art Exhibition in 2017. The Centre has a special focus on creativity through the arts and culture. And what better way to address this than by holding an art exhibition in the lead up to Easter on the Stations of the Cross. This will be the third art exhibition the Centre has hosted in the past 12 months and it has been a great encouragement to many hundreds of people to see the Centre being used to showcase the work of leading Australian artists. The works are inspiring, challenging and engaging. They are a wonderful media through which the important issues and questions are raised about life, faith and meaning in today's world. We are particularly grateful to the Rev'd Dr Doug Purnell who has organised and curated this exhibition.

“The traditional stations are a lingering expression of medieval devotion. They are existential prayer with a much wider frame. It is a pattern of life shaped by the human journey from the time we become aware of our mortality or finitude through our sufferings and until we face death.”